



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurobehavioral disorder that is characterized by problems with attention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity. The disorder affects almost 4 million school-aged children and can last into adulthood. If the condition goes untreated or unmanaged, significant difficulties in crucial areas of life such as relationships with peers and family members may occur. Performance at school or work can also be impaired.

ADHD affects between 3% and 7% of school-age children, in addition to 2% to 4% of the adult population. Almost 4 million youth ages 3 to 17 (6%) have been diagnosed with ADHD. Statistics show that boys are more than twice as likely as girls to have an ADHD diagnosis.

The National Resource Center on ADHD was opened in May 2003, to service the needs of many individuals and families seeking information and assistance related to ADHD. The center is the country's first and only national clearinghouse dedicated to evidence-based science and treatment of ADHD. Within the first 8 months of operation, the center averaged 1,200 inquiries (phone, Web, mail) per month and this figure is only expected to grow as the center expands its outreach activities. The center provides pragmatic and scientific data to clinicians, the public, and partner organizations which heighten awareness and strengthen support for ADHD.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

- Collaborated with the Children and Adults with ADHD (CHADD) to create the ADHD National Resource Center. CHADD is a national non-profit organization providing education, advocacy, and support for individuals with ADHD.
- The center is the first and only national clearinghouse dedicated to the sharing of evidence-based science and treatment information about ADHD to the public and to professionals.
- Provides information about ADHD and associated concerns to the public and to various professional groups through their website (www.help4adhd.org), their telephone hotline (1-800-233-4050), and their electronic and onsite libraries. The materials available online and the assistance provided by telephone are available in English and Spanish.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- Build capacity for the National Resource Center on ADHD to expand its ability to respond to requests by increasing the number of information specialists available to address caller needs.
- Continue to build and make available valuable and reliable resources through the online resource library and physical clearinghouse of ADHD resources.
- Evaluate the satisfaction of consumers who use the center so that program improvements can be made.
- Expand efforts to outreach to diverse communities with information about ADHD.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/program

January 2004